

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 15, 2008 requires an election under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 from among the following:

- I Claims 1-17 and 39-41, drawn to a fiber;
- II Claims 18-34 and 42, drawn to a method of manufacturing a fiber;
- III Claims 35-36, drawn to a method of manufacturing a paper product;
- IV Claims 37-38, drawn to a paper product.

Group I, claims 1-17 and 39-41, is elected with traverse for further prosecution in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to non-elected subject matter.

Upon allowance of the group I product claims, Applicants request rejoinder under MPEP 821.04 of the group II process claims, which contain all of the limitations of the group I product claims.

The Office Action alleges that the claims of the present invention are not linked so as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Allegedly, the claims of the present invention lack the same or corresponding special technical features as required under PCT Rule 13.2 because the special technical feature of the group I claims is allegedly present in U.S. Patent No. 4,897,300 to Boehm ("the '300 patent").

As a traverse, Applicants argue that the special technical feature of the group I claims is a fibre having a plurality of regions printed on front and rear sides of said fibre, wherein said regions are coloured and the colours are visible only under ultra-violet light. This feature is not found in the '300 patent, as the '300 patent relates to a security thread having printed luminescent colors on **one side** of the thread. This is a distinct difference between the present invention and the security thread of the '300 patent, as the colors of the fibre of the present invention are visible regardless of orientation and without requiring a fibre material that is transparent. Hence, the special technical feature of the invention is not provided in the prior art, and thereby links the claims of groups I-IV.

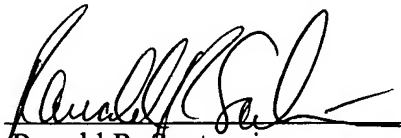
Enforcing the present restriction requirement would result in inefficiencies and unnecessary expenditures by both the Applicants and the PTO, as well as extreme prejudice to

Applicants (particularly in view of GATT, a shortened patent term may result in any divisional applications filed). Restriction has not been shown to be proper, especially since the Office Action has not provided the requisite showing that the special technical feature of the group I-IV claims is provided in the prior art. Further, in view of the relationships between all of the claimed combinations, the search and examination of each combination is likely to be co-extensive and, in any event, would involve such interrelated art that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without undue burden on the Examiner. All of the preceding, therefore, mitigates against restriction.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction are requested, and an early action on the merits earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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